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RR RUEAIIB
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 STU0065
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 DE RUMJGM #0119 0061119
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 FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
 TO RUEHRO/AMEMBASSY ROME 379
 RUMJGM/AMCONSUL HONG KONG 1317
 INFO RUEHIA/USIA WASHDC 2092
 RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 2862
 RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI 1508
 RUMJDK/AMEMBASSY DHAKA 2658
 RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD 3160
 RUEHMR/AMCONSUL MADRAS 2578
 BT

C O N F I D E N T I A L

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE COLOMBO 0119

USIAC

ROME AND HONG KONG PASS CODELS

EO 12356: NA

SUBJ: PRESSPLAY ON CODELS ADDABBO AND HATFIELD

1. FOLLOWING IS FULL TEXT OF FRONT PAGE STORY IN GSL-OWNED DAILY NEWS. PIECE WAS WRITTEN BY T.M. DEEN, THE PAPER'S NEW YORK CORRESPONDENT, AND CARRIED THE HEADLINE "US CONGRESSMEN DUE ON FACT-FINDING MISSION".

2. BEGIN TEXT:

A SIX-MEMBER US CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION WILL BE IN SRI LANKA NEXT WEEK ON A FACT-FINDING TOUR.

THE DELEGATION, WHICH IS LED BY JOSEPH ADDABBO (DEMOCRAT - NEW YORK), WILL BE IN COLOMBO FROM JAN 12-14 ENROUTE TO ATHENS, ROME, SINGAPORE, TAIWAN, SEOUL AND TOKYO.

AS CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE, CONGRESSMAN ADDABBO WIELDS CONSIDERABLE POLITICAL CLOUT IN CAPITOL HILL.

THE SUBJECT OF US MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO SRI LANKA IS THEREFORE LIKELY TO BE ONE OF THE MANY TOPICS TO BE DISCUSSED IN COLOMBO.

THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE DELEGATION ARE:
 JACK EDWARDS (REPUBLICAN - ALABAMA), JACK HIGHTOWER (DEMOCRAT - TEXAS), JOSEPH MCDADE (REPUBLICAN - PENNSYLVANIA), J. KENNETH ROBINSON (REPUBLICAN - VIRGINIA), AND GEORGE O'BRIEN (REPUBLICAN - ILLINOIS).

MEANWHILE, A SECOND CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION WILL BE ON A TWO-HOUR STOPOVER IN COLOMBO LATER THIS MONTH.

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THIS DELEGATION, LED BY SENATOR MARK O. HATFIELD (REPUBLICAN - OREGON), WILL PAY A COURTESY CALL IN COLOMBO.

THE US AMBASSADOR IN COLOMBO, JOHN REED, AND HATFIELD ARE TWO VETERAN REPUBLICAN GOVERNORS.

WHEN REED WAS GOVERNOR OF MAINE, HATFIELD WAS HIS COUNTERPART IN THE STATE OF OREGON.

BOTH HAVE ALSO BEEN LONGTIME BUDDIES.

END TEXT.

3. BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE:

POST HAS RECEIVED NO RPT NO PRESS QUERIES ON EITHER CODEL. IF IF THERE ARE QUESTIONS ON CODEL ADDABBO POST PLANS TO RESPOND BY PLAYING UP GOODWILL ASPECTS OF TRIP AND BY MINIMIZING DEFENSE ASPECTS WITH REGARD TO SRI LANKA PORTION OF TRIP.

OPPEN

END OF MESSAGE

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